



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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5DA
27 Jun 02

From: Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar,
San Diego, CA 92145

To: Commanding Officer, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command,
1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190

Subj: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE DISPOSAL AND REUSE OF
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, EL TORO

1. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your staff's exceptional work performed in executing the Record of Decision (ROD) for the disposal and reuse of Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro. In particular, I want to give my most sincere thanks to Robert Montana and Rex Callaway who managed to safely and successfully navigate the EIS through one of the most contentious reuse issues found in all of DoD's Base Realignment and Closure program.
2. Robert and Rex's outstanding work, professionalism and attention to detail took an internal draft Department of Navy document, which did not fully meet the requirements of NEPA, and developed a Final EIS and ROD which was suitable for not only DoN's requirements, but also the Federal Aviation Administration's requirements. Their accomplishments were made more remarkable by their ability to develop a final document that was flexible enough to support both aviation and non-aviation reuse while addressing ever-changing plans and direction from the FAA, the County of Orange, and others. Additionally, they managed to respond to over 1600 comments, complete the Final EIS, circulate the Final and write and sign the ROD within six months - by all accounts, a Herculean effort.
3. Thank you again for the commitment of your organization and the personal, professional efforts of Robert and Rex. Their professional efforts on this project and their continuing support to the Marine Corps are appreciated.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jon A. Gallinetti".

JON A. GALLINETTI